



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart
Southern District of Ohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2009
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CONTACT: Fred Alverson
614-469-5715

PRIOR SEX OFFENDER PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

DAYTON – Sean T. Porter, age 46, of Dayton, pleaded guilty in United States District Court here to one count of possession of child pornography. He faces a minimum sentence of ten years imprisonment and up to 20 years imprisonment because of prior convictions for sex crimes involving children.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Gerald A. O'Farrell, Assistant Inspector in Charge, United States Postal Inspection Service, and Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, announced the plea entered today before United States District Judge Thomas M. Rose.

According to a statement of facts filed with the plea agreement, Porter began chatting online with "chrissy 13" in June, 2007 thinking that he was chatting with a 13-year old girl. He was actually chatting with an undercover postal inspector. Porter sent pornographic images of himself and sent "chrissy 13" \$60 with the understanding that she would use the money to buy a webcam so she could send pornographic images of herself to him.

At the time, Porter was on parole for a sex offense involving a minor in Greene County. Postal Inspectors and ICE agents went to Porter's house in January 2008 where they found a computer containing approximately 25 images of child pornography. Porter was prohibited from using a computer as a condition of his parole. Porter's plea agreement also calls for him to forfeit all computer equipment in his possession.

"Officers patrolling the Internet are as vital to our community's safety as are officers patrolling the streets," Lockhart said. "Parents need to help their children understand the dangers they face on the Internet."

“Today’s plea sends a clear message—that the Postal Inspection Service is committed stopping criminals who use the U.S. Mails, particularly in heinous crimes relating to child exploitation,” Assistant Inspector In Charge O’Farrell said.

“Too many individuals mistakenly believe the anonymity of cyberspace shields them from scrutiny,” said Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of ICE for Michigan and Ohio. “ICE remains committed to investigating this type of on-line activity to prevent the exploitation of children.”

Judge Rose will set a date for Porter’s sentencing. He will remain on electronic monitoring until he is sentenced.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys’ Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

Lockhart commended the investigation by Postal Inspectors, ICE agents and the assistance of the Ohio Adult Parole Authority, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Clemmens, who prosecuted the case.

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